

Amendments to the Claims

1 Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of preparing information usable in theft detection using
2 radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, comprising steps of:
3 reading a customer identifier from a customer loyalty card; and
4 storing the customer identifier in an item-identifying RFID tag affixed to each of at least
5 one or more items presented for purchase in a current transaction, such that the item-identifying
6 RFID tag affixed to each of at least one items possessed by a shopper can subsequently be
7 searched to determine whether the at least one items were presented for purchase in the current
8 transaction.

1 Claim 2 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the customer identifier
2 is read with an RFID reader from [[an]] a loyalty card RFID tag affixed to the customer loyalty
3 card.

1 Claim 3 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the [[step]]
2 steps of:
3 subsequently searching, for each of the at least one items possessed by the shopper, the
4 item-identifying RFID tag affixed to the item to determine whether the customer identifier from
5 the customer loyalty card was previously stored therein; and
6 for any of the subsequently-searched item-identifying RFID tags for which the customer
7 identifier is determined not to be previously stored therein, concluding that the item to which the
8 item-identifying RFID tag is affixed was at least some of one or more items possessed by a

9 shopper were not paid for in the current transaction if the customer identifier is not present in an
10 ~~RFID tag affixed to each such item.~~

1 Claim 4 (currently amended): A method of detecting potential theft using radio frequency
2 identification ("RFID") technology, comprising steps of:
3 reading, from a customer loyalty card possessed by a shopper, a customer identifier;
4 searching, for each of at least one items possessed by the shopper, an item-identifying
5 RFID tag affixed to the item to determine whether the customer identifier from the customer
6 loyalty card was previously stored therein during a particular purchase transaction; and
7 concluding that one or more selected ones at least some of the one or more items
8 possessed by [[a]] the shopper were not paid for in the particular purchase transaction if the
9 searching step fails to locate the customer identifier is not present in the [[an]] RFID tag affixed
10 to each such item the selected ones.

1 Claim 5 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 4, wherein the customer identifier
2 is read from [[an]] a loyalty card RFID tag affixed to the customer loyalty card.

1 Claim 6 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 4, further comprising the step of
2 storing the customer identifier in the item-identifying RFID tag affixed to each of the one or
3 more items[[,]] when the items [[were]] are presented for purchase during the particular purchase
4 transaction prior to operation of the searching concluding step.

1 Claim 7 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 4, further comprising the step of
2 remembering each item that was in the shopper's possession when the shopper entered an
3 establishment in which [[a]] the particular purchase transaction represented by the receipt was
4 conducted, and wherein the searching and concluding steps omit do not apply to the remembered
5 items.

1 Claim 8 (currently amended): A system for preparing information usable in theft detection using
2 radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, comprising:
3 means for reading a customer identifier from a customer loyalty card; and
4 means for storing the customer identifier in an item-identifying RFID tag affixed to each
5 of at least one or more items presented for purchase in a current transaction, such that the item-
6 identifying RFID tag affixed to each of at least one items possessed by a shopper can
7 subsequently be searched to determine whether the at least one items were presented for purchase
8 in the current transaction.

1 Claim 9 (currently amended): The system according to Claim [[7]] 8, wherein the customer
2 identifier is read with an RFID reader from [[an]] a loyalty card RFID tag affixed to the customer
3 loyalty card.

1 Claim 10 (currently amended): The system according to Claim [[7]] 8, further comprising:
2 means for subsequently searching, for each of the at least one items possessed by the
3 shopper, the item-identifying RFID tag affixed to the item to determine whether the customer

4 identifier from the customer loyalty card was previously stored therein; and
5 for any of the subsequently-searched item-identifying RFID tags for which the customer
6 identifier is determined not to be previously stored therein, means for concluding that the item to
7 which the item-identifying RFID tag is affixed was at least some of one or more items possessed
8 by a shopper were not paid for in the current transaction if the customer identifier is not present
9 in an RFID tag affixed to each such item.

Claim 11 (canceled)

1 Claim 12 (currently amended): A system for detecting potential theft using radio frequency
2 identification (“RFID”) technology, comprising:
3 means for reading, from a customer loyalty card possessed by a shopper, a customer
4 identifier; and
5 means for searching, for each of at least one items possessed by the shopper, an item-
6 identifying RFID tag affixed to the item to determine whether the customer identifier from the
7 customer loyalty card was previously stored therein during a particular purchase transaction; and
8 means for concluding that one or more selected ones at least some of the one or more
9 items possessed by [[a]] the shopper were not paid for in the particular purchase transaction if the
10 means for searching fails to locate the customer identifier is not present in the [[an]] RFID tag
11 affixed to each such item the selected ones.

1 Claim 13 (currently amended): The system according to Claim [[10]] 12, wherein the customer

2 identifier is read from [[an]] a loyalty card RFID tag affixed to the customer loyalty card.

1 Claim 14 (currently amended): The system according to Claim [[10]] 12, further comprising
2 means for storing the customer identifier in the item-identifying RFID tag affixed to each of the
3 one or more items[[,]] when the items [[were]] are presented for purchase during the particular
4 purchase transaction, prior to operation of the means for concluding searching.

1 Claim 15 (currently amended): A computer program product for preparing information usable in
2 theft detection using radio frequency identification (“RFID”) technology, the computer program
3 product embodied on one or more computer-readable media and comprising:

4 computer-readable program code means for reading a customer identifier from a customer
5 loyalty card; and

6 computer-readable program code means for storing the customer identifier in an item-
7 identifying RFID tag affixed to each of at least one or more items presented for purchase in a
8 current transaction, such that the RFID tag affixed to each of at least one items possessed by a
9 shopper can subsequently be searched to determine whether the at least one items were presented
10 for purchase in the current transaction.

1 Claim 16 (currently amended): The computer program product according to Claim [[13]] 15,
2 wherein the customer identifier is read with an RFID reader from [[an]] a loyalty card RFID tag
3 affixed to the customer loyalty card.

1 Claim 17 (currently amended): The computer program product according to Claim [[13]] 15,
2 further comprising:

3 computer-readable program code means for subsequently searching, for each of the at
4 least one items possessed by the shopper, the item-identifying RFID tag affixed to the item to
5 determine whether the customer identifier from the customer loyalty card was previously stored
6 therein; and

7 for any of the subsequently-searched item-identifying RFID tags for which the customer
8 identifier is determined not to be previously stored therein, computer-readable program code
9 means for concluding that the item to which the item-identifying RFID tag is affixed was at least
10 some of one or more items possessed by a shopper were not paid for in the current transaction if
11 the customer identifier is not present in an RFID tag affixed to each such item.

1 Claim 18 (currently amended): A computer program product for detecting potential theft using
2 radio frequency identification (“RFID”) technology, the computer program product embodied on
3 one or more computer-readable media and comprising:

4 computer-readable program code means for reading, from a customer loyalty card
5 possessed by a shopper, a customer identifier; and
6 computer-readable program code means for searching, for each of at least one items
7 possessed by the shopper, an item-identifying RFID tag affixed to the item to determine whether
8 the customer identifier from the customer loyalty card was previously stored therein during a
9 particular purchase transaction; and

10 computer-readable program code means for concluding that one or more selected ones at

11 least some of the one or more items possessed by [[a]] the shopper were not paid for in the
12 particular purchase transaction if the computer-readable program code means for searching fails
13 to locate the customer identifier is not present in the [[an]] RFID tag affixed to each such item
14 the selected ones.

1 Claim 19 (currently amended): The computer program product according to Claim [[16]] 18,
2 wherein the customer identifier is read from [[an]] a loyalty card RFID tag affixed to the
3 customer loyalty card.

1 Claim 20 (currently amended): The computer program product according to Claim [[16]] 18,
2 further comprising computer-readable program code means for storing the customer identifier in
3 the item-identifying RFID tag affixed to each of the one or more items[[,]] when the items
4 [[were]] are presented for purchase during the particular purchase transaction, prior to operation
5 of the computer-readable program code means for concluding searching.

Claim 21 (canceled)

1 Claim 22 (new): The system according to Claim 12, further comprising means for remembering
2 each item that was in the shopper's possession when the shopper entered an establishment in
3 which the particular purchase transaction was conducted, and wherein the means for searching
4 and means for concluding omit the remembered items.

1 Claim 23 (new): The computer program product according to Claim 18, further comprising
2 computer-readable program code means for remembering each item that was in the shopper's
3 possession when the shopper entered an establishment in which the particular purchase
4 transaction was conducted, and wherein the computer-readable program code means for
5 searching and computer-readable program code means for concluding omit the remembered
6 items.